

Message Text

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15

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 IO-14

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15

NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 DRC-01 /088 W

----- 005185

R 042000Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6181

INFO AMCONSUL CURACAO

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EO11652 NA

TAGS: SNAR VE

SUBJ: QUARTERLY NARCOTICS REPORT FOR VENEZUELA, JULY-
SEPT 1974

REF: DEPT A-4700

SUMMARY. DURING THE QUARTER THE DEA BUENOS AIRES REGIONAL
OFFICE MOVED TO CARACAS AFTER THE GOV AGREED TO THE RELOCATION.
THERE WERE SEVERAL MULTI-KILOGRAM SEIZURES OF COCAINE BY THE
VENEZUELAN TECHNICAL JUDICIAL POLICE (PTJ). END SUMMARY.

1. ABUSE. THERE IS FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT DRUG ABUSE IS INCREASING
IN VENZUELA. IN ADDITION TO THE GROWING LOCAL DEMAND FOR MARI-
JUANA, THERE NOW EXISTS A SUBSTANTIAL DEMAND FOR COCAINE AS WELL.
TRAFFICKING IN BOTH DRUGS ACROSS THE COLOMBIAN-VENEZUELAN
FRONTIER HAS RESULTED IN A SIGNIFICANT BORDER CONTROL PROBLEM.

2. PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING. NO NEW INFO.

3. TRAFFICKING TRENDS. VENEZUELA'S ROLE AS AN INTERNATIONAL
TRANS-SHIPMENT POINT WAS DEMONSTRATED DURING THE QUARTER
BY THE ARREST OF TWO VENZUELANS AT CURACAO IN POSSESSION
OF 15 KILOS OF COCAINE AND A SEIZURE AT SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO
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OF 4.5 KILOS OF COCAINE COMING FORM VENZUELA. A US TRAFFICKER

WAS ARRESTED AT CARACAS' MAIQUETIA AIRPORT IN POSSESSION OF 3 KILOS OF COCAINE DESTINED FOR THE US MARKET. MARIHUANA SMUGGLING FROM COLOMBIA CONTINUED DURING THE QUARTER.

4. ENFORCEMENT. THE NATIONAL ENFORCEMENT EFFORT REMAINED AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL DURING THE PERIOD. SEIZURES BY THE PTJ OF DRUGS DESTINED FOR SALE ON THE LOCAL MARKET TOTALLED MORE THAN 5 KILOS OF COCAINE AND 300 KILOS OF MARIHUANA. DRAFT LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD INCORPORATE THE NATIONAL GUARD INTO A NATIONAL POLICE FORCE HAS BEGUN TO MEET OPPOSITION FROM THE NATIONAL GUARD, WHICH WOULD LOSE ITS MILITARY STATUS, AND THE ARMY, WHICH IS CONCERNED AT THE CREATION OF A POLICE FORCE EQUAL IN SIZE TO ITSELF. IT IS NOT ANTICIPATED THAT THE REORGANIZATION OF VENEZUELA'S POLICE FORCES WILL BE COMPLETED BEFORE SOMETIME NEXT YEAR. THE NATIONAL COMMISSION AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR HAVE PRESENTED TO CONGRESS DRAFT BILLS WHICH WOULD UPDATE VENEZUELA'S NARCOTICS ACT OF 1934.

5. TREATMENT, REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION. NO NEW INFO.

6. TRAINING. PTJ DEPUTY DIRECTOR MANUEL MOLINA GASPERI HAS ACCEPTED AN INFORMAL INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN EXECUTIVE LEVEL TRAINING WITH DEA IN THE US DURING THE COMING QUARTER. THE MISSION HAS INITIATED TALKS TO DETERMINE GOV RECEPTIVITY TO IN-COUNTRY CUSTOMS TRAINING.

7. REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION. DURING THE QUARTER THE PTJ PARTICIPATED IN A JOINT INVESTIGATION OF INTERNATIONAL NARCOTIC TRAFFICKERS WITH THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES NATIONAL POLICE, THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE AND THE CARACAS DISTRICT OFFICE OF DEA. A VISIT BY PTJ OFFICIALS WITH THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES MINISTER OF JUSTICE INITIATED OFFICIAL BILATERAL LIAISON IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD. THE VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS OFFERED TRAINING

ASSISTANCE AT THE PTJ ACADEMY TO THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES POLICE.

8. EMBASSY AND HOST COUNTRY ACTIVITIES. THROUGH AN EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES THE USG AND THE GOV ON AUG 26 AGREED TO THE RELOCATION OF THE DEA BUENOS AIRES REGIONAL OFFICE TO CARACAS. THE AGREEMENT FOLLOWED A CONCERTED MISSION EFFORT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OBTAIN GOVE ACQUIESCENCE TO THE MOVE. A PLAN OF RE-ORGANIZATION FOR VENEZUELAN NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT PREPARED BY DEA WAS SUBMITTED TO THE PTJ. MISSION OFFICERS MET WITH MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AGAINST DRUG ABUSE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING THE QUARTER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CARACA09895
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740282-0606
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741073/aaaackjh.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: DEPT A-4700
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QUARTERLY NARCOTICS REPORT FOR VENEZUELA, JULY- SEPT 1974
TAGS: SNAR, VE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005